

At page 8, first paragraph:

Q5 The compositions of the present invention can be used to effectively lighten skin, hair, lips and nails`by topically applying the composition having an effective amount of the topical lightening agent. To lighten the color or shade of hair, the present compositions should preferably be rubbed onto/into the scalp so that the composition can penetrate into the hair follicles or root shafts and be absorbed into the hair during the melanin production process.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 30 have been subject to a six-way restriction requirement in the Office Action. Group I is claims 11 to 13, Group II is claims 14 and 15, Group III is claims 16 to 21, Group IV is claims 22 and 23, Group V is claims 24 to 28 and Group VI is claims 29 to 30.

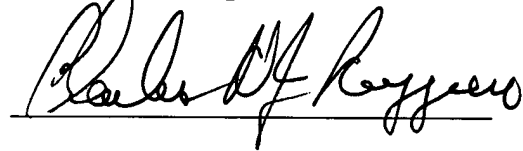
Although Group I is indicated in the Office Action as claims 11 to 13, this is deemed possibly erroneous since claims 1 to 10 were not mentioned in any restricted group and each of claims 2 to 13 directly or indirectly depend on independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants will assume Group I was intended to encompass claims 1 to 13. Applicants request clarification if this assumption is incorrect.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1 to 13, for prosecution.
This election is made with traverse.

The amendments made to the specification are not deemed to add new matter. Basis in the specification for the amendments to page 3 are is seen in the Field of the Invention and at page 5, lines 13 to 16. Basis for the amendment at page 5 is apparent from context in the same sentence. The amendments at pages 7 and 8 correct typographical errors.

Allowance of claims 1 to 13 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended as follows:

At page 3, lines 15 and 16:

It is an object of the present invention to provide a composition for lightening of the skin, hair, nail and/or lips.

At page 3, lines 18 and 19:

It is an object of the present invention to provide a composition to alter/modify melanin synthesis in the skin, hair, nail and/or lips.

At page 5, top:

However, the topical lightening agents useful in the compositions and methods of the present invention lighten [the skin] by regulating melanin production and inhibiting the uptake of melanin in the skin, hair, lips, and/or nails.

At page 7, last paragraph:

The compositions of the present invention preferably include at least one, more preferably at least two, most preferably at least three, of the following ingredients: aloe barbadensis or an extract thereof, hydrolyzed soy protein, n-glucosamine, gamma-

aminobutyric acid, a competitive inhibitor of melanocyte stimulating hormone (MSH) (e.g. hexapeptide-2), clintonia borealis (bluebeard lily) or an extract thereof, milk proteins, hydrolyzed milk proteins, sanguisorba officinalis (burnet), a glutathione reductase [inhbitor] inhibitor (e.g. wheat germ) or extracts thereof.

At page 8, first paragraph:

The compositions of the present invention can be used to effectively lighten skin, hair, lips and nails [be] by topically applying the composition having an effective amount of the topical lightening agent. To lighten the color or shade of hair, the present compositions should preferably be rubbed onto/into the scalp so that the composition can penetrate into the hair follicles or root shafts and be absorbed into the hair during the melanin production process.